

Utricularia intermedia Hayne in Schrad.

flat-leaved bladderwort

Lentibulariaceae (Bladderwort Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S2

General Description: Submersed plants with very slender stems, commonly creeping along the bottom; leaves numerous, alternate, mostly $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, commonly 3-parted at the base and then 1-3 times dichotomous, the segments often unequal, slender, flat, not much narrower in successive dichotomies, the ultimate ones rather blunt; bladders borne on specialized branches distinct from the leaves, $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ inch wide; winter buds ovoid or ellipsoid, $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, flowers mostly 2-4 in lax racemes at the end of an emergent peduncle $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches long; corolla yellow, the proper tube very short, the lower lip commonly $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, with a well-developed palate; upper lip not much more than half as long as the lower; spur nearly as long as the broad, slightly lobed lower lip; fruiting pedicels suberect.

Identification Tips: *Utricularia vulgaris* and *U. minor* occur within the same range as *U. intermedia*. *Utricularia vulgaris* is a much larger plant with leaves $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inches. The bladders of *Utricularia minor* are borne on the leaves, whereas in *U. intermedia* they occur on specialized branches.

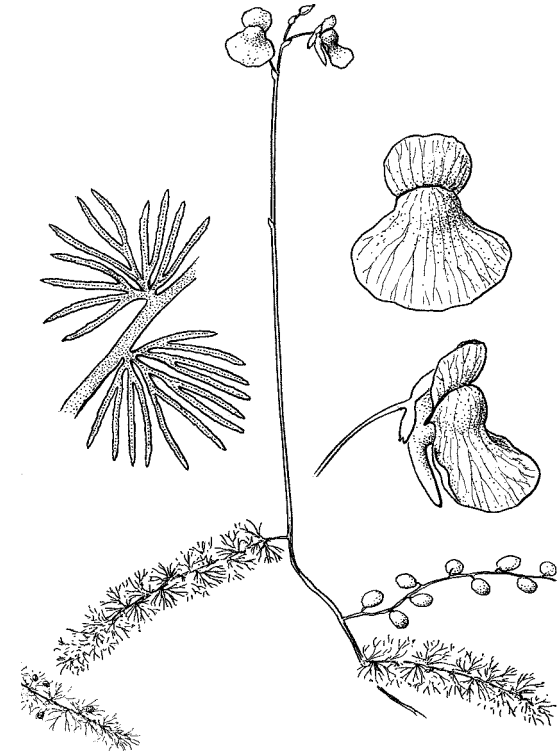
Phenology: Flowers mostly July through August.

Range: Circumboreal in North America, extending south to California, northern Nevada, southeast Idaho, northern Utah, Montana, Indiana, and Delaware. In WA, the species is known from Clallam, King, Klickitat, Skamania, and Snohomish counties. Occurs in the Eastern Cascades, Western Cascades, Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington, and Puget Trough physiographic provinces.

Habitat: Shallow ponds, slow-moving streams, and wet sedge or rush meadows. Elevation 10-4000 feet. Associated species include hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus flammula*), spreading rush (*Juncus supiniformis*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviale*), and Sitka sedge (*Carex sitchensis*).

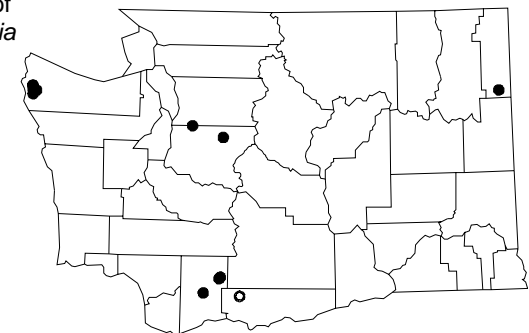
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Known distribution of
Utricularia intermedia
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: "The bladderworts are carnivorous plants. The digestive processes occur in small bladders consisting of a hollow bag with a small entrance at one end. Around the entrance are usually some projecting bristles arranged in such a way that a passing insect, crustacean, or paramecium will be guided towards the mouth. The entrance itself is closed by a hermetically sealed valve which bears four hairs. When these are touched, the valve is triggered, and the rush of water drags the animal inside..." (Rossbach 1939).

State Status Comments: The small number of known occurrences and the species' restriction to a habitat susceptible to change are the primary factors contributing to its status.

Inventory Needs: Suitable habitats throughout the range of the species should be systematically inventoried.

Threats and Management Concerns: Loss of wetland habitat, siltation, and invasion by aquatic weeds are the major threats to the species.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.

Rossbach, G.B. 1939. Aquatic utricularias. *Rhodora* 41: 113-128.